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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Duhon et.al.

Attorney Docket No: 22.1397

Serial No: 09/871,240

Art Unit: 3672

Filed: May 30, 2001

Examiner:

For: EXPANDABLE ELEMENTS

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination of above-referenced application filed on May 30, 2001, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

Prior to examination, please amend the specification as follows:

On page 6, replace paragraphs 1 and 2 with:

A sealing element 43 is formed on the outside surface of the superplastic sleeve 14. The sealing element 43, which may be formed of an elastomer, is designed to engage the inner wall of the casing, liner, tubing, or pipe 40 to isolate the wellbore above and below the expandable plug 10.

In operation, to set the expandable plug 10, a survey may be initially performed with a surveying tool (not shown) to determine the temperature and pressure of the wellbore at the desired depth. Once the temperature and pressure has been determined, the surveying tool may

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8 & 1.10

I hereby certify that this document and its attachments are being sent on the date indicated below to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 by:

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Date 30 NOVEMBER 2001

Susan J. Stewart
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